

were inaccessible to them for nearly 30 years. It isn't clear whether opening the border was just a tactic to ease the frustrations, or a sign of a fundamental change of heart. But it has produced rare displays of human kinship, exchanges of flowers and pastries, and emotional visits to homes abandoned in the mid-1970s.

Neither the Government's measures for the Turkish Cypriots, nor the partial lifting of restrictions by the occupation regime, should be seen as a substitute for a comprehensive resolution to end the division of Cyprus. We can only hope that the improved climate that has resulted from these steps will contribute to a negotiated settlement based on the U.N. framework in time for the accession of Cyprus to the European Union in May 2004.

We are all standing at the threshold of a historic opportunity that will shape the futures of generations of Cypriots, Greeks, and Turks. We have a responsibility to these ensuant generations to secure their futures by contributing to the efforts to create a peaceful world. We have a moral and ethical obligation to use our influence as Americans—as defenders of democracy, and as defenders of human rights, to reunify Cyprus. There have been twenty-nine years of illegitimate occupation, violence, and strife; let's not make it three decades.

Lastly, I want to bid a fond farewell to Cyprus's Ambassador to the United States, Mrs. Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, after nearly 5 years of service in our nation's capital. I want to praise the Ambassador for her tremendous efforts and contributions to accomplishing awareness among Members of Congress and Administration officials of Cyprus' desire to be reunified. She will be missed.

CYPRUS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the gentleman from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, for organizing this special order on Cyprus, and for allowing us to reflect on the 29th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. Cyprus has over the last three millennia faced war, devastation and foreign occupation. Today, we highlight the most recent occupation, which Cyprus has endured for 29 years.

Although Cyprus was granted its independence by Great Britain in 1960, as an independent republic composed of two equal communities, in 1974, Turkey exploited a crisis brought about by a military junta to occupy over one third of the island.

To this day, Turkey refuses to remove its troops, despite repeated condemnations by the United Nations.

The Cyprus conflict is one of the longest lasting issues of the international community, which remains unresolved. This conflict has had devastating consequences in terms of lives lost, children orphaned, economic losses and psychological trauma.

The present division of Cyprus, and the presence of 35,000 Turkish troops on the island, is completely unacceptable. We should not accept any further delays or excuses from Turkey on withdrawing from Cyprus.

Numerous resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council and the UN

General Assembly condemn both the Turkish invasion of Cyprus and the continuing presence of the Turkish military, as illegal acts of aggression.

In addition to the UN, other international bodies of similar stature, like the European Parliament, have also voiced their opposition to the occupation and endorse the reunification of Cyprus as the only acceptable solution to the Cyprus problem.

Faced with a unanimous condemnation by the international community, Turkish leaders have reverted to threats of annexation of Cyprus.

Reports by the European Commission on Human rights state that the Turkish government uses Turkish newspapers to issue threats that the Turkish army will move to occupy the southern part of Cyprus as well, which is under control of the Government of the Republic.

The human rights body of the European Commission adds that Turkey's puppet regime has increasingly threatened to settle, as yet unoccupied areas, with Turks, instead of returning these to the 35,000 lawful inhabitants, the Greek Cypriot refugees of Varosha.

This cannot and will not be tolerated. The United States has put Turkish and Turkish Cypriot leaders on notice.

Not only is it the right thing to do, but it would also benefit American interests in the region to help bring about an expeditious resolution of the tragic division of Cyprus.

Cyprus is a valued partner in the fight against the new global threats of terrorism and terrorist-sponsoring regimes, proliferation, illegal narcotics and international crime.

Cyprus and the United States also have shared values and a shared commitment to building a world based on open markets, democratic principles and the rule of law.

While the Turkish stance, which clearly led to the failure of U.N.-sponsored negotiations between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, must change immediately, we, in Congress, will not waiver on our commitment for Turkish troops to end their illegal occupation of Cyprus once and for all, bringing to an end a tragic period in Cypriot history.

As a U.S. NATO ally and European Union aspirant, Turkey should be held to the highest standards of compliance with its international obligations.

For 29 years, Turkey has ignored the will of the United States and has repeatedly violated the mandates of the United Nations to cease its illegal occupation of Cyprus. Rather than withdrawing, it has reinforced its military presence.

The moment of truth is at hand, and time has run out for Turkish and Turkish Cypriot leaders.

They must undertake concrete steps to forge an agreement on the terms of reunification, and must do so with all deliberate speed.

HONORING MARY LOU STROM

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Lou Strom of Enfield, CT who is leaving the political arena after 22 years of

dedicated service to the people of North-eastern Connecticut.

Mary Lou has set a standard of excellence for those engaged in local politics. Having served for 8 years on the Planning and Zoning Commission and another 14 years on the Enfield Town Council, Mary Lou has become a familiar face to Connecticut politics and has truly made a difference in her community.

What is most exceptional about Mary Lou is her understanding that it is our fellow citizens who are most important in the political process. All of us know that if democracy is to work properly, quality leadership is required at every level of government, and Mary Lou has proven to be that type of leader. Because of Mary Lou's service, Enfield and the surrounding communities are a better place in which to live, work and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage the Members of the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the service of Mary Lou Strom as she leaves the political arena. She has been a blessing to her community and her country and will be greatly missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF PENNKNOLL VILLAGE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pennknoll Village located in Everett, Pennsylvania. On July 26, 2003 the retirement community will celebrate 25 years of service, and acknowledge the employees who have worked at Pennknoll Village since the inception of the institution.

In the late 1970s, Diakon Lutheran Social Services, which serves nearly 60,000 people annually, revamped the program and, with the help of the county, built a new nursing facility. Pennknoll Village has grown to become a vital part of the community and now accommodates 133 residents, including those in need of short-term care.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor that I rise today to recognize Pennknoll Village and its 25 years of service. Central and western Pennsylvania are a better place because of workers like those employed by Pennknoll Village. I wish them continued success over the coming years.

ENSURE FAIR WAGES AND DUE PROCESS FOR DAY LABORERS

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Day Laborer Fairness and Protection Act," a bill to ensure fair wages and due process for day laborers.

Day laborers are individuals who are hired by agencies to work on a day-to-day basis for employers who pay for the services of temporary laborers. Day labor is not of a clerical or professional nature. Most day laborers perform construction, warehouse, restaurant, janitorial, landscaping or light industrial work—